

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 125832
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY 5/17/78 EXTENSION 22478
APPROVED BY - ELB, DIRECTOR
EUR/RPM:GMATTHEWS (DRAFT)
L:JMICHEL S/S:DANDERSON
DOD/ISA:JROWE
JCS:JMERRILL
NSC:JTMATHEWS
NSC:RBARTHOLOMEW
ACDA/WEC:BBLECHMAN (DRAFT)
S/MS:MJOYCE

-----006318 172228Z /65

O 172154Z MAY 78 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 125832

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, PCAT, UR, US

SUBJECT: CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS: SOVIET PROPOSAL
OF MAY 6TH -

REFERENCE: (A) HELSINKI 1389, (B) MOSCOW 10750

1. YOU SHOULD CONVEY ORALLY TO MENDELEVICH PERSONALLY
CONFIRMATION OF FORMAL US REJECTION OF SOVIET PROPOSAL PUT
FORWARD AT MAY 6TH PLENARY SESSION FOR A BILATERAL AGREEMENT
TO "BAN ARMS TRANSFERS EXCESSIVE TO THE NORMAL SELF-DEFENSE

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REQUIREMENTS OF STATES BORDERING THE OTHER PARTY."

2. FYI -- ON INSTRUCTION, US REP RELAYED FORMAL US
REJECTION OF THIS PROPOSAL TO MENDELEVICH IN HELSINKI, BUT
TOLD MENDELEVICH THAT REJECTION WOULD BE CONFIRMED THROUGH
DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS TO AVOID ANY MISUNDERSTANDING. END FYI

3. IN REJECTING PROPOSAL, YOU MAY DRAW ON FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- THE PROPOSAL IS ONE-SIDED AND NOT CAST IN THE SPIRIT OF OUR DISCUSSIONS AS FOCUSING ON SPECIFIC REGIONAL SITUATIONS WHERE ARMS TRANSFERS CAN HARM OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS, AS WELL AS THREATEN INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AND STABILITY,

AND ON BROAD POLITICAL AND MILITARY CRITERIA.

-- WE NOTE WITH SATISFACTION THAT THIS PROPOSAL WAS OFFERED SEPARATELY FROM THE REGULAR DISCUSSIONS IN HELSINKI BECAUSE IT SEEMS OUT OF LINE WITH THE SPIRIT OF THOSE DISCUSSIONS. WE ARE THEREFORE DEALING WITH IT OUTSIDE OF THAT CONTEXT AND DELIVERING OUR RESPONSE SEPARATELY.

4. ON A RELATED MATTER, YOU SHOULD TELL MENDELEVICH THAT WE READ WITH INTEREST THE PRAVDA ARTICLE OF MAY 11TH, BECAUSE IT DID NOT REFLECT OUR CONVERSATIONS IN HELSINKI OR THE GENERAL TENOR OF THOSE CONSULTATIONS. WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN HIS OPINION OF HOW WE SHOULD INTERPRET IT.

5. YOU SHOULD ALSO TELL MENDELEVICH, THAT WE ALSO NOTED WITH SURPRISE AND CONCERN, THAT THE RUSSIAN TEXT OF THE COMMUNIQUE, AS PUBLISHED ON MAY 12TH DIFFERED SIGNIFICANTLY FROM THE TEXT AGREED TO AT HELSINKI. YOU SHOULD TELL
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MENDELEVICH THAT OBVIOUSLY THE US CANNOT ACCEPT UNILATERAL REVISION OF JOINTLY AGREED COMMUNICATION. YOU SHOULD TELL MENDELEVICH THAT US WILL CONTINUE TO ACT ACCORDING TO WHAT MENDELEVICH TOLD GELB IN THEIR PRIVATE MEETING; NAMELY, THAT THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT WILL ABIDE BY THE ENGLISH VERSION OF THE COMMUNIQUE. YOU SHOULD ASK MENDELEVICH FOR CONFIRMATION THAT SOVIET GOVERNMENT SHARES THIS UNDERSTANDING.

6. YOU SHOULD TELL MENDELEVICH THAT WE NONETHELESS THINK IT IS IMPORTANT TO HAVE CLARIFICATION OF WHY OMISSIONS AND CHANGES WERE MADE IN THE RUSSIAN TEXT, AND WHY THIS WAS DONE WITHOUT INFORMING US AS HAD BEEN AGREED IN HELSINKI. (FYI -- YOU SHOULD RAISE EACH DEVIATION NOTED IN REFTEL (B) OTHER THAN THE FIRST, I.E., "TRADE AND SUPPLY" VICE "TRANSFER"). VANCE

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